

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. In a computer system, a method of signaling that an event has occurred, comprising the steps of:

a) an application program of said computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an event object to be displayed on a display screen, said call including an event type corresponding to said event object;

- 10 b) in response to said request, indexing a table with said event type and a screen capability flag to obtain said display attribute, wherein said table is located externally of said application program and has a plurality of display attribute lists, each of said display attribute lists having a display attribute corresponding to each of said event types; and,

- 15 c) said application program displaying said event object on said display screen with said display attribute, wherein a user of said computer system is signaled that an event has occurred.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

- 20 setting at least one display attribute in said table such that said display attribute conveys a particular meaning to the user of the computer system.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said at least one display attribute is a color.

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4. The method of Claim 2 wherein said meaning to the user is warning.

5. The method of Claim 2 wherein the meaning to the user is caution.
6. The method of Claim 2 wherein the meaning to the user is status is good.
- 5 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of said application program changing at least one of said display attributes.
8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of a user of said computer system changing at least one of said display attributes.
- 10 9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said table resides in an operating system of said computer system.
- 10 10. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
15 accessing said screen capability flag from an operating system.
11. The method of Claim 1 wherein said computer system is a palmtop computer system.
- 20 12. A computer system comprising:  
a processor coupled to a bus;  
a display screen coupled to said bus;  
a memory unit coupled to said bus and comprising instructions that when  
executed by said processor implement a method of signaling that an event has  
25 occurred, comprising the steps of:

a) an application program of said computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an event object to be displayed on a display screen, said call including an event type corresponding to said event object;

b) in response to said request, indexing a table with said event type and  
 5 a screen capability flag to obtain said display attribute, wherein said table is located externally of said application program and has a plurality of display attribute lists, each of said display attribute lists having a display attribute corresponding to each of said event types; and,

c) said application program displaying said event object on said display  
 10 screen with said display attribute, wherein a user of said computer system is signaled that an event has occurred.

13. A computer system as described in Claim 12 wherein said computer system is a portable computer system.

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14. A computer system as described in Claim 12 wherein said computer system is a palm-sized computer system.

15. In a palm-top computer system, a method of displaying information,  
 20 comprising the steps of:

a) an application program of said computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an event object to be displayed on a display screen, said call including an event type corresponding to said event object;

b) in response to said request, indexing a table with said event type and  
 25 a screen capability flag to obtain said display attribute, wherein said table is located externally of said application program and has a plurality of display

attribute lists, each of said display attribute lists having a display attribute corresponding to each of said event types; and,

- c) said application program displaying said event object on said display screen with said display attribute, wherein a user of said computer system is  
5 signaled that an event has occurred.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the step of:

setting at least one display attribute in said table such that said display attribute conveys a particular meaning to the user of the computer system.

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17. The method of Claim 16 wherein said display attribute is a color.

18. The method of Claim 15 wherein step a) comprises the step of:

- a1) an event external to said palm-top computer system triggering said  
15 call by said application program to request said display attribute for said event object.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein:

- said event external to said palm-top computer system is a stock price  
20 reaching a pre-defined price.

20. The method of Claim 18 wherein:

said event external to said palm-top computer system is the computer entering a certain geographic location.